DETAILED ACTION

Applicants filed an appeal brief 4/13/09. During the appeal conference, allowable subject matter was identified and a proposal for examiner's amendment (see the examiner's amendment set forth below) to place the application in condition for allowance was conveyed to applicants. See the attached interview summary.

Claims 1, 2, 9-14 and 19-21 directed to an allowable process. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(B), claims 3-5, 7, 16 and 18 directed to the process, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

Because all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, **the restriction requirement as set forth in the Office action mailed on 8/23/06 is hereby withdrawn**. In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the rejoined species, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Chad Rink on 6/8/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claim **17**.

Please replace the **claim 1** with the following.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an amide compound, which comprises reacting a compound having an amino group with a polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride in the presence of the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid,

wherein the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride is added to a mixture of the compound having an amino group and the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid, or the compound having an amino group and the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride are added to the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid,

wherein the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride is ethylenediaminetetraacetic dianhydride, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid monoanhydride, diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid

dianhydride, 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic dianhydride, or 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid monoanhydride; and

wherein the polyaminopolycarboxylic group of both said acid and said acid anhydride are the same.

Please replace the **claim 19** with the following.

19. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an amide compound, which comprises reacting a compound having an amino group with a polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride in the presence of the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid; wherein the compound having an amino group is a chitosan tri- to deca-saccharide,

wherein the polyaminopotycarboxylic acid anhydride is added to a mixture of the compound having an amino group and the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid, or the compound having an amino group and the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride are added to the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid,

wherein the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride is ethylenediaminetetraacetic dianhydride, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid monoanhydride, diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid dianhydride, 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic dianhydride, or 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid monoanhydride; and

wherein the polyaminopolycarboxylic group of both said acid and said acid anhydride are the same.

Please replace the **claim 21** with the following.

21. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an amide compound, which comprises reacting a compound having an amino group with a polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride in the presence of the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid and a base,

wherein the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride is added to a mixture of the compound having an amino group and the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid, or the compound having an amino group and the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride are added to the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid,

wherein the polyaminopolycarboxylic acid anhydride is ethylenediaminetetraacetic dianhydride, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid monoanhydride, diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid dianhydride, 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic dianhydride, or 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid monoanhydride; and

wherein the polyaminopolycarboxylic group of both said acid and said acid anhydride are the same.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satyanarayana R. Gudibande whose telephone number is 571-272-8146. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4.30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia Tsang can be reached on 571-272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Satyanarayana R Gudibande/
Examiner, Art Unit 1654

/Cecilia Tsang/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1654